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(cont)
Sub E1
[] at least one bacterial filter being interposed between said canister and said pump.

2. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein [the] said bacterial filter is located in said canister.

3. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 2 wherein said canister is removably attached to a housing for said pump.

4. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein said canister is removably received in a recess in the housing.

Sub F3
5. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 3 wherein [the drainage] said tube is fitted into the interior of said porous pad as an interference fit.

6. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 5 wherein said pad comprises a polymer foam having interconnecting cells.

Sub F2
7. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 6 wherein said foam is a polyether reticulated foam having at least 95% of interconnecting cells.

8. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dressing is an elastomeric film which is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive and said foam is a reticulated foam having at least 90% of interconnecting cells.

9. (Amended) A therapeutic [apparatus] combination for [stimulating] promoting wound healing [of a wound] in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface [introduction into the wound and secured in the wound by a dressing covering the wound and providing an air-tight seal around the wound and said pad];

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked from the wound, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube [connected to said pad through a drainage tube; and];

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to the wound, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister through a hose;

[.] at least one bacterial filter being interposed between said canister and said pump; and

a sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

10. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 9 wherein said sensor comprises a capacitance sensor, said sensor arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid.

11. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 10 wherein the [apparatus] combination is adapted to apply continuous or intermittent suction to the wound.

12. (Amended) [An apparatus] A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a bleed device provided between the canister and the pump to permit release of negative pressure during intermittent operation.

Sub F5 13. (Amended) A therapeutic [apparatus] combination for [stimulating] promoting wound healing [of a wound] in mammals, comprising:

a polyether reticulated foam pad which is permeable to fluids, said pad having at least 95% of interconnecting cells being adaptable for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface [introduction into the wound];

a dressing for securing said pad in place by covering the wound and providing an air-tight seal around the wound and said pad, said dressing being an elastomeric polyurethane film which is coated at least in the peripheral areas with a pressure-sensitive adhesive;

a drainage tube fitted into the interior of said porous pad as an interference fit;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked from the wound; said canister being connected to said pad through said drainage tube;

a suction pump for applying continuous or intermittent negative pressure to the wound, said pump being fluidically connected to said canister through a hose;

a bleed device provided between the canister and the pump to permit release of negative pressure during intermittent operation;

said canister further being removably received in a recess of a housing for said pump;

a bacterial filter contained in a portion of said canister in fluid communication between said canister and said pump; and

a capacitance sensor arranged to sense a change of capacitance as said canister fills with fluid, said sensor being associated with said pump to discontinue application of the negative pressure when a substantially full condition of said canister is detected.

14. (Amended) A canister for use in a therapeutic combination to aid [an apparatus for stimulating] wound healing [by draining], comprising:

a molded plastic container provided with an anti-foaming substance within a chamber thereof;

said container having an inlet for connection to a wound dressing pad;

said container having an outlet for connection to a suction pump;

said outlet incorporating a bacterial filter; and

a deflector for diverting fluid sucked through said inlet in a direction towards the bottom of said container, away from said outlet.

15. (Amended) A canister as claimed in claim 14 wherein said container is provided with a gel-forming substance, which substance is capable of immobilizing drainage fluids within said container.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Numerous amendments have been made in hopes of more particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming various aspects of the invention. The amendments are thought to eliminate the grounds for rejection under § 112.